



Wanna Cook?: The Complete, Unofficial Companion to Breaking Bad

Ensley F. Guffey, K. Dale Koontz

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“I am not *in* danger, Skyler. I am the danger.”

With those words, *Breaking Bad*’s Walter White solidified himself as TV’s greatest antihero and captured the attention of fans everywhere. *Wanna Cook?* takes an extensive look at the most critically lauded series on television with analyses of individual episodes as well as ongoing storylines. Exploring the entire series, from Walt’s beginnings as a small-time meth peddler to the infamous Heisenberg, readers will get a sense of just how brilliant and calculated *Breaking Bad* actually is.

Meticulously considering everything from details like stark settings, intricate camerawork, and jarring music to the larger themes, including the roles of violence, morality, and self-change, this companion offers indispensable insight into this complex show. Elucidating without spoiling or nitpicking, there’s no need for any fan to tread lightly through this thought-provoking and must-have companion book.

Wanna Cook?: The Complete, Unofficial Companion to Breaking Bad Details

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From Reader Review Wanna Cook?: The Complete, Unofficial Companion to Breaking Bad for online ebook

Will Wilson says

I found myself unable to put this book down - just like I found it difficult to stop watching the show on Netflix. Breaking Bad is just that addictive, apparently. This book examines the entire series with exhaustive attention to detail, and the authors provide a detailed analysis of everything, from themes to characters to camera shots.

My only complaint was that, in the episode recaps, the authors have pledged to "avoid spoilers" - I have not been able to figure out why they would do this. I can't figure out why anyone would choose to read it without having seen the series. The book is clearly meant for Breaking Bad fans, and I would assume that anyone who reads it has watched the every episode. Would anyone get mad if there was a spoiler? They would have only themselves to blame. The reason this bothered me is because I felt they could have written more about some of the more memorable moments, but avoided them due to some misplaced desire to avoid spoilers. Otherwise, though, the book was excellent.

Tony Kordyban says

Are you a Breaking Bad binge watcher? Or planning to binge? This episode guide will intensify your experience, if that is even possible. More than a blow-by-blow account of the plot of each episode, this is a truly deep study of this modern classic of crime. I have watched the whole series multiple times on DVD, and this book gave me a new understanding of what may be my favorite TV series of all time.

Darrel says

A terrific season to season, episode by episode guide to 'Breaking Bad'. As epic in scope as the series, I found this book to be a perfect compliment to it. As I watched the series once again, I read the few pages covering each episode just prior to watching. The observations and analysis of each episode provided were as complete and meticulous as was necessary, without giving away too many spoilers (though the authors claim not to, the discussion of each episode often provides an in-depth look at characters actions and reactions and presupposes that you have seen what is described). The authors also include many insights regarding each episode and even occasionally drop in personal reflections from various cast and crew members concerning specific episodes that were pivotal to their character or particular work they performed. To my (pleasant) surprise, I actually came away with a better understanding of the motivations and actions of the characters than I'd previously been aware of. This book has given me an even greater appreciation for the series than I thought possible and it is most definitely worth the time for fans of the show.

Serdarc says

Breaking Bad hayranlar?n?n keyifle okuyaca?? bir rehber. Dizinin her bir bölümü belli bir format? takip

edecek ?ekilde tek tek ele al?nm??, sezon aralar?nda ise "Ne Var Ne Yok" ba?l??? alt?nda ekstra içerikler mevcut. Söz konusu format ayr?nt?ya girmeden bölümün genel bir özeti, "Fark Ettiniz Mi?" ba?l??? alt?nda bölümde geçen, ilk seferde veya her izleyici taraf?ndan fark edilemeyen bilgiler, kamera çekimleri ile ilgili bilgiler, bölümün ad? ile ilgili bilgiler ve son olarak bölümde geçen herhangi bir tema (kullan?lan kimasallardan tutun ABD hukuk sistemine kadar pek çok ?ey) ile ilgili ayr?nt?l? ekstra bilgilerin verildi?i "özel içerikler" ba?l??? ?eklinde. K?sacas? içerik tatmin edici ve diziyi bir kez de kitap e?li?inde tekrar izleme iste?i olu?turuyor. Kapak tasar?m? ve kalitesi de iyi.

Kitap hakk?ndaki olumlu yorumlar?m?n yan?nda çeviri ve dizgi ile ilgili olumsuz yorumlar?m? belirtmeden geçemeyece?im. Çeviri özensiz ve anlat?m bozukluklar?yla dolu. Dizgide ise kelime tekrarlar?, yaz?m hatalar? ve pek çok ufak tefek hata g?rla (Fring yerine Fringe, Marie yerine Maggie, IFT yerine IFK yaz?lmış? akl?ma ilk gelenler). Sonraki bas?mlarda iyi bir editörlük ve dizgi ile bu ba?yap?ta yak??r bir kitap haline gelebilir.

Tati Lopatiuk says

Maravilhoso. Livro perfeito pra quem ama a série. Cada detalhe, cada referência, cada pedaço da genialidade dos atores e roteiristas que fizeram Breaking Bad está aqui. Leia sem pressa e aproveite.

Carol Storm says

Great episode by episode guide to BREAKING BAD, arguably the greatest television show of all time. The best thing about the book by far is the scientific discussions of the science in each episode. It turns out that hydrofluoric acid is not actually the best chemical to use to get rid of people like Crazy 8 and Emilio. The writers explain that lye is easy to get, does not raise suspicions, and won't eat through a ceramic bath tub. Great stuff!

The worst part of the book is that the authors keep moralizing over and over about the same obvious points. Walter is lying to his family and they are so great and wonderful and why doesn't he realize that he's supposed to just roll over and die? But Walter White is not that kind of man, any more than Ahab in MOBY DICK or Shakespeare's Richard III. They're not Scrooge. They don't reform.

"And let me die a good old man in bed," as Richard III once chortled.

Book Addict Shaun says

So a few months ago, after hearing nothing but praise for a TV show called Breaking Bad I watched the Pilot episode not knowing what to expect. Well, Breaking Bad then took over my life until I reached it's thrilling and final episode. I have honestly never enjoyed a TV series as much as this and even now, months later I am

finding it hard to enjoy other shows as nothing compares to it. It definitely deserves all the praise it's getting thrown at it.

When I speak about it to people who haven't watched it and they ask me what it's about, I struggle with how to answer. When I read what it was about myself I was left wondering, 'Okay, is that it?'. A high school teacher learns he has cancer and so starts cooking meth with an ex-pupil to leave money behind for his family. It doesn't sound like much on paper or said out loud but after just 60 seconds of the Pilot episode and I was hooked. Vince Gilligan is just a genius and the cast of this show is second to none. There isn't a single bad character, okay some of them are annoying at times but overall the acting from each and every character is fantastic.

I was bereft when I reached the final episode. I wanted to watch it so much but I didn't at the same time as I knew it signified the end. I've got the blu-ray box set which is full of extras and of course I can watch it again from the start but nothing beats watching it for the very first time and I am beyond envious at the people that are yet to do it. If you are one of those people that avoids something because it's popular or because everybody else can't shut up about it then don't, just watch it!

Upon reaching the end I searched for books about it and didn't really find anything that took my fancy. Then I found this little gem on Net Galley and was ecstatic when my request was approved. This is very much a case of a book which has been written by the fans for the fans. It's also one that I definitely want a hard copy of and so I can't wait for its release. It's essentially an episode guide for every single episode, but at the end of each episode recap are 'LAB NOTES' which contains trivia about the episode: e.g. HIGHLIGHTS, DID YOU NOTICE?, INTERESTING FACTS etc. I definitely learned things about the show I didn't know before this but there are also things about the show I know that aren't included here. It is extremely in-depth however. Each season also ends with SPEED KILLS which lists the body count of dead characters and beatdowns.

There is also a feature in the book entitled 'WHAT'S COOKING' which are 'essays' about the show and include, 'Change We Can Believe In', 'Walter White and the Antihero', "Better Call Saul!", "This Ho Has To Go!" which refers to fan hatred for Skylar White, 'Buying the House' which is about Jesse's home and 'The Ones Who Knock' which is about violence in Breaking Bad. There are all very enjoyable and in-depth essays about the show that any fan will love reading.

This book is definitely a must have for any Breaking Bad fan's collection but also for those new to the series. It's something you can read from start to finish or use as a reference when watching the show. It's weird how much stuff you actually miss when watching the show (which is another reason to watch it on repeat!) as I found myself reading parts of the book and thinking 'I don't remember that!' or 'I didn't notice that!' Breaking Bad is definitely a show that when you watch it for the second, third, fourth etc time you will learn or notice something new and this book can definitely help you to do that.

Dan Schwent says

Wanna Cook? is an episode guide for the exquisite television program, Breaking Bad.

I got this from Netgalley.

Wanna Cook is an episode by episode analysis of the rise and fall of one Walter White, cancer sufferer and

meth cook. Each episode is picked apart, highlighting the milestones on Walt's rise and fall, as well as commentary on the actors and camera work. Some of the symbolism is also picked apart.

The writing is pretty good and I liked learning about the underlying philosophy of the show. I thought they may have read a little too much into some of the symbolism, however. The book made me want to watch Breaking Bad in its entirety once again. There were some clever insights and I enjoyed the trip down memory lane immensely but I'm not sure how necessary the book actually is in this day and age since there are probably thousands of websites out there dissecting Breaking Bad in great detail.

The only thing I thought may have been lacking in the book was that there were no "what might have been" sections. No mention was made that Jesse Pinkman wasn't originally intended to survive the first season, for instance.

Wanna Cook is a good look back at a great TV show. I am on the one who knocks! Three out of five stars.

Shawna Briseno says

ARC provided by NetGalley:

If you're a rabid Breaking Bad fan, as I am, you will enjoy this book. Described as a companion guide, it walks you through the series with a recap of episodes as well as in-depth analysis of minutiae such as music choice, character development, and symbolism of every possible kind. The book also provides factual information attesting to the plausibility, or lack of, in some of the story lines. Historical background is also provided for details such as the Mexican drug cartel and the evolution of meth. An excellent gift as well!

Erin Cutler says

Read this if you are like me and have nothing to fill your life with since breaking bad finished. It will give you more!!

Dan Smith says

Strictly for those who have watched all of Breaking Bad and loved it, this is not much more than a compilation of episode guides, but it's done very well. Each episode is given sections for discussion on plot, themes, camera shots / direction, character notes, and a short diversion into some element of the subject matter - e.g. the chemical processes, social effects of meth, the business of insect fumigation, ex parte injunctions and legal privilege, etc. And in between each season, there's a longer essay on the story as a whole, its themes, and production notes.

It could have been a drab cash in, and perhaps it was drawn from blogposts, but no matter: it comes together well.

Mary Ann says

Lots of really good information on Meth. It is better than the show, which I cannot watch with the kids around.

Tressa says

Wow. This book is very impressive, full of details of every single show and every major and minor character of Breaking Bad. (Did you know that Carol, Walt's neighbor, is Vince Gilligan's mother? I just love tidbits of trivia like this!) After watching it a second time recently, I was thinking to myself, Hey, wouldn't it be great if there were a book written by a fan who is a talented writer and who would give background on all the episodes, scenes, music, actors, directors, and writers? Well, it was sitting two floors below me on the Arts, Literature, and Sports Dept.'s shelves this whole time. Gotta love the public library.

If you're a fan of the show you will love this book. It's broken down into seasons/episodes and gives a plot summary, a cool "Did You Notice" section, and some great insight by Ensley Guffey that I really enjoyed. It was like having a deep conversation with a friend over all the little and big things you noticed in the show and wanted to discuss with another fan.

Since Breaking Bad is one of THE best TV shows EVER written and acted, IMO, I will buy a copy for my own collection so I can wallow in the greatness of this show over and over again.

Maurinejt says

At last I found my Breaking Bad kindred spirits, because the authors of this tome watch the show as obsessively as I do. The conclusions they drew were a bit different than what I saw in various scenes, however. I found that intriguing and made me realize again how much a bias can affect what you're seeing in what you choose to ignore and focus on.

The authors are much more cynical about the character of Walt than I am, seeing him as wholly self absorbed and ambitious, lacking the basic human ability to really care for another person at all. I have always seen him as self-deluded: he does care, deep down, but the trappings of his increasingly degenerate life nearly smother it. I've said elsewhere the show spins around the question of what Jesse is to Walt; these authors have determined the answer is tool and puppet. I would argue that Jesse comes to mean as much or even more to Walt than his family--he just can't admit it to himself. (That horrible scene in Ozymandias could be seen as pure revenge, that only the betrayal by someone Walt really cared for would have prompted him to lash out so brutally.) So to support that view, telling scenes are glossed over or reinterpreted in the book, and other moments pointed out. Neither of us are wrong or right (though naturally I consider my position stronger), that's why discussion is so great. I also thought of Skyler more as a victim, especially at the end, but after reading the book I changed my mind. In many ways, she's well-suited to her husband.

Wanna Cook? also includes background facts and further exploration of topics brought up in the show. I found that fascinating as well, since most of that was new information to me.

My only big criticism was that I felt like some episodes merited more space than they were given in the text.

It was a little frustrating to turn to the big episodes of the series and find the write-up almost an outline of the issues and turning points presented.

All in all, though, this is an exhaustively detailed and well thought out companion to Breaking Bad and I thoroughly enjoyed it.

Wysterria says

I kept hearing people talk about Breaking Bad, but I didn't start watching it until it was almost over on television. It is as addictive as the meth that is cooked on the show. Seriously. I love Bryan Cranston and he was phenomenal in this series. So of course, when I saw that this companion existed, I had to read it. It is very detailed, with a chapter dedicated to every episode, explaining characters, plot, etc. It outlines things to watch for in the episodes, brings your attention to cinematography and themes, as well as any errors in the episodes. All this, and the authors are very careful not to give away too much for those who might be reading this before actually having seen the episodes. There are a few specific sections that do contain spoilers, but they tell you this up front.

This book is a must-read for anyone who obsessively watched this show and wants a little extra to think about when going back and obsessively re-watching the episodes. Which I might have done. Maybe.
